

Big Incubators Gather Momentum At Warriner's Wayside Duck Farm

One yellow duckling standing on his discarded egg shell and flapping his ridiculous little wings is captivating enough, but multiply him by three thousand, and you have a vibrating mass of soft yellow fluff that is irresistible.

When Mrs. Paul Warriner opens a drawer in the long line of hatching incubators, the baby ducks rush for the light and spill over onto the floor, landing like a bit of thistle-down. Mrs. Warriner calmly scoops them up, closes the drawer, and goes on to the next in line to see how the hatch is coming on.

After the babies are thoroughly dry and have gotten their land legs under them, they are packed for immediate shipment in perforated cartons, fifty to a box, and rushed to the post-office. For the first forty-eight hours they need no food, having enough retained egg-yolk with them from their incubation to carry them.

Mr. Warriner, owner of Wayside Duck Farm, lifts a foolish little duck and calls attention to the bill. "See that grain of sand?" he inquires. "That grain will slough off in a few days. Nature provides it to help the duck crack his tough shell, but after hatching, the duck no longer needs it."

"Can a baby duck swim right away?"

Just about then a baby duck, crowding too close to the edge of the heated tray, scrambled over the edge and landed in the shallow metal tank of water beneath, kept filled at all times for humidifying the air. Yes, ducks can swim, right away. This one expertly righted himself and floated, looking greatly pleased. Mrs. Warriner fished him out, returned him to the tray to dry off and closed the drawer.

Four days before the hatch is expected, explains Mr. Warriner, the eggs are removed from the large electric incubator and placed in the hot-water heated unit, so that hatching ducks will not disturb other eggs not yet sufficiently incubated. When the eggs are removed, the vacant shelves are immediately filled with new eggs, and the dates changed. It takes 28 days for ducks to hatch, and there is a constant procession of eggs through the sixteen-thousand egg incubator, with successive batches removed as they ripen and approach hatching time.

Tuesday is H-Day, with baby ducklings floundering to the front of the trays with the first gleam of light through the glass windows. Mrs. Warriner says that is the day when everybody gets up early, to pack the ducks and get them off in the first mail. Mr. Warriner fills the back of the station wagon with cartons for mailing, closes the windows to keep in the heat, and makes for the postoffice. By the time he returns, hundreds more baby ducks are dry and ready for

transportation.

Nowadays the Warriners raise ducks like mad for six months, and then turn off the incubators when the heavy egg-laying season ends. There was a time when they raised the young ducks and kept up production of eggs all year round, but this grew wearing, especially in the cold winter months.

The biggest hatches come in June, when egg production is at its peak. Ducks are egg machines, systematically laying an egg a day. The 1,000 breeders keep the big incubator filled. The first hatch this season, early in March, amounted to a modest two hundred, but each successive hatch has been larger. Tuesday's hatch started for Wisconsin.

Mr. Warriner uses parcel post exclusively, saying air rates are exorbitant and very little time is saved.

The duck hatchery and breeding grounds at Demunds Corners are arranged for efficiency and maximum fertility and production. At the bottom of the hill there is a large spring which bubbles up even in zero weather and keeps the pond full. Up the slope is another spring which services a different enclosure of ducks. Ducks take to the open water in the coldest weather. Water birds, they need water for proper breeding, though many ducks are raised on dry land without a trickle of water. But if fertile eggs are needed for incubation, a duck pond is a necessity.

Up the slope toward upper Demunds Road, are the incubator rooms and supply shed. Sacks of feed are transported on a trolley to the feeding sheds, without necessity for lifting. Cars drive down a slope to the lower floor of the two-story building on the hillside so that there is no lifting of feed or ducks.

There is a demand for duck eggs for eating. During the first few weeks of the laying period, which starts roughly the first of January, eggs are not incubated, so there are enough to satisfy the demand, with many double yolked eggs produced and occasionally even a triple-yolker. Later, very few duck eggs are sold for eating except the cracked ones, as it is more profitable to hatch them. Duck eggs taste exactly like hen eggs. The nice thing about a duck egg is its size, three duck eggs being the equivalent of five hen eggs.

An incubator that holds sixteen thousand eggs sounds like a behemoth, and big business. But there is a lot more to it than meets the eye. Hatching ducks is expensive. During the off-season when no eggs are produced and no hatching is done, with consequent shipment and revenue, the breeders keep right on eating. Anybody who has ever raised puddle ducks knows what pigs they are. With those

Scene At The Wayside Duck Farm

On the left, baby ducks hatching in trays, something which happens every Tuesday morning. Two pictures in the middle show two pens of mature ducks, the breeding stock. To the right is a rack holding thousands of duck eggs awaiting incubator space.

Mothers and Daughters To Hold Banquet May 16

Mother and Daughter Banquet of Truckville Methodist Church will be held Wednesday at 6:15, with arrangements by members of the Friendship Class. All mothers and daughters of the community are invited to attend. The WSCS will serve the dinner.

Reservations must be made on or before Sunday, with Arline Bessemer or Alice Davis, chairmen of the ticket committee. General chairman is Lena Ide; in charge of entertainment are Georgiana Weidner, Alberta Lohman, and Edith Mazetter; decorations, Ella Long, Minerva Owen, and Pearl Williams; master of ceremonies is Betty Farr.

State May Take Street

Dallas Borough Council is using the good offices of Senator T. Newell Wood to have the State Department of Highways take over maintenance of the highway from the Pioneer avenue intersection to Fernbrook.

broad flat bills they can shovel their way through huge quantities of feed, and the less they lay, the more they eat.

Japonicas In Bloom

The handsomest japonica bush in Dallas is now in full bloom on the property of Mrs. Kate Smith on Huntsville Road, just below Norton avenue. Its spreading branches almost sweep the ground, its conformation follows that of a Japanese print.

Wong, used by at least 150,000,000 Chinese, is the world's most common family name.

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Miss Mary Lou Gilligan Is Honored At Dinner

Miss Mary Lou Gilligan was guest of honor at a dinner given by Mrs. John Naugle and Mrs. Jack Naugle at the Spa in Wilkes Barre prior to her marriage to Norman Stair. Present were Mrs. Calvin Flickinger, Mrs. Marvin Stair, Mrs. Merritt Stair, Mrs. Neil Stair, Mrs. Earl Stair, Mrs. Edward Stair, Mrs. Horace Raedler, Miss Ruth Kingsbury, Miss Margaret Gilligan, Mrs. John Gilligan, the guest of honor and the hostesses.



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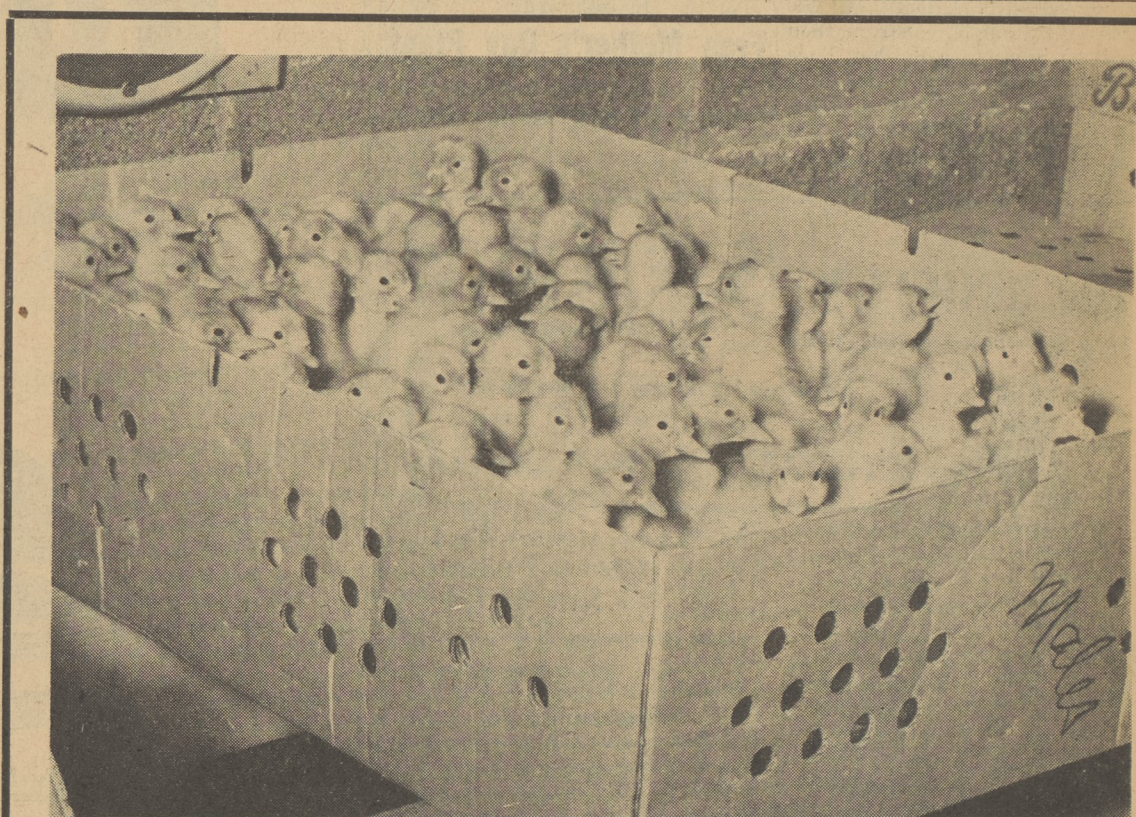
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Just a sample shipment of fuzzy ducklings as they are about to leave the Wayside Duck Farm for parts unknown. The breeding stock was raised on Red Comb Duck Feeds supplied by Kenneth Rice of Orchard Farm.

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